Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the applications.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A parking meter for monitoring an adjacent parking space comprising:

a transmitter,

a unique identification code,

a vehicle presence detector for conveying occupancy status of the adjacent parking space, the vehicle presence detector being coupled to the transmitter,

a camera for acquiring at least one image of a license plate of a vehicle parked in the adjacent parking space, the camera being coupled to the transmitter,

an authorization input device for producing an authorization request, the authorization input device comprising a user identity input, the authorization input device being coupled to the transmitter

wherein the transmitter can communicate the unique identification code, the occupancy status, the image, and the authorization request to a receiver.

Claim 2 (original): The parking meter according to claim 1, wherein the transmitter can communicate via one or more of: Internet, World Wide Web, intranet, extranet, virtual private network, cellular network, telephone network, fiber optic network, cable network, satellite network, and GPS link.

Claim 3 (original): The parking meter according to claim 1, comprising additionally a light source to illuminate the license plate when acquiring the image.

Claims 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): The parking meter according to claim 1, wherein the authorization input device comprises a payment input.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (previously presented): The parking meter according to claim 1, comprising a display output coupled to the authorization input device.

Claim 8 (original): The parking meter according to claim 7, comprising a meter receiver coupled to the display.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The parking meter according to claim 1, comprising a parking meter body encased in a sheet of titanium.

Claim 10 (original): A system for parking enforcement comprising:

a plurality of parking meters, each parking meter comprising

a transmitter,

a unique identification code,

a vehicle presence detector for conveying occupancy status of an adjacent parking space, the vehicle presence detector being coupled to the transmitter,

a camera for acquiring at least one image of a license plate of a vehicle parked in the adjacent parking space, the camera being coupled to the transmitter,

wherein the transmitter can communicate the corresponding unique identification code, the occupancy status, and the image;

at least one receiver for communicating with the transmitter,

a database comprising

the plurality of unique identification codes,

a parking meter location associated with each unique identification code, and

a parking permission type associated with each unique identification code,

a timer to measure a duration of occupancy,

a controller coupled to the database, the receiver, and the timer, the controller selectively generating a parking violation signal as a function of the corresponding occupancy status, permission type, and duration of occupancy, and

a mail distribution center that receives from the controller the parking violation signal, the corresponding parking meter location, and the image.

Claim 11 (original): The system according to claim 10 wherein the mail distribution center responds to the parking violation signals by least one of dispatching tow trucks to the parking meter location and sending parking tickets to owners of vehicles.

Claim 12 (original): The system according to claim 10 wherein at least a subset of the plurality of parking meters each additionally comprises an authorization input device for producing an authorization request, the authorization input device being coupled to the transmitter, wherein the transmitter can communicate the authorization request to the receiver, and the controller generating the parking violation signal additionally as a function of the corresponding authorization request.

Claim 13 (original): The system according to claim 12 wherein the authorization input device is a payment input.

Claim 14 (original): The system according to claim 12 comprising a database of parking user accounts coupled to the controller, each user account having an associated user identity code and user account information, wherein the authorization input device is a user identity input for entering the user identity code, the controller generating the parking violation signal additionally as a function of user account information, and the controller being capable of updating the user account information.

Claim 15 (original): The system according to claim 12, comprising at least one controller transmitter and wherein at least a subset of the plurality of meters have meter receivers for communicating with the controller transmitter, and output displays coupled to the meter receivers.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The system according to claim 15, further comprising a database of critical Amber Alert details coupled to the controller, whereby the critical Amber Alert details can be shown on the output displays.

Claim 17 (original): The system according to claim 14, wherein the image is a digital image, the license plate number is extracted from the digital image, and the controller generates the parking violation signal additionally as a function of the extracted license plate number.

Claim 18 (original): The system according to claim 10, wherein the image is a digital image and the license plate number is extracted from the digital image, the system comprising a list of one or more sought license plate numbers coupled to the controller, and wherein the controller compares extracted license plate numbers to each sought license plate number to generate a sought license plate matching signal, and the mail distribution system receives the sought license plate matching signal.

Claims 19-26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (previously presented): The system according to claim 18 wherein the one or more sought license plate number is a critical Amber Alert detail.

Claim 28 (previously presented) A method for parking enforcement comprising:

communicating from a monitored parking space to a controller a vehicle presence indication and an image of a license plate of a parked vehicle,

retrieving by the controller from a database a permission type associated with the monitored parking space,

selectively generating by the controller a parking violation signal as a function of permission type and duration of occupancy, and

communicating the parking violation signal to a mail distribution center.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method according to claim 28 further comprising communicating from the monitored parking space to the controller an authorization request to the controller, and wherein selectively generating the parking violation signal is as a function additionally of the authorization request signal.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method according to claim 29 further comprising

encrypting the authorization request after obtaining the authorization request, and

decrypting the authorization request after communicating the authorization request.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method according to claim 29 wherein the authorization request signal comprises a parking user identification code, the method comprising

accessing by the controller a database of parking user accounts comprising parking user identification codes associated with parking user account information, and

selectively generating by the controller a parking violation signal as a function additionally of the parking user account information.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The method according to claim 31 comprising

measuring parking duration,

transmitting the parking duration and the parking user identification code to the database of parking user accounts, and

updating the account information associated to the parking user identification code.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method according to claim 31 further comprising extracting a license plate number from the image, and wherein the license plate number is the user identification code.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method according to claim 28 comprising

extracting a license plate number from the image,

comparing the extracted license plate number to one or more sought license plate number,

generating a sought license plate matching signal when the extracted license plate number matches the sought license plate number,

communicating the sought license plate matching signal to the mail distribution center.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method according to claim 34, wherein the sought license plate number is a critical Amber Alert detail.